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HONG KONG BUSINESS EXPANDING,  
CANTON'S DETERIORATING

HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL PLANTS INCREASE -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 27 May 49

Registrations for new factories in Hong Kong have increased considerably since the beginning of 1949. During the first quarter of 1949, applications for permits were submitted by 76 new factories. Out of this number, 58 were permitted to begin operations. In comparison, the average number of applications per month in 1948 was only 25, 24 of which received permits.

The city's industrial statistics show the following increase in factories and number of workers since the end of March 1948:

| Date     | Factories | Workers | Remarks                      |
|----------|-----------|---------|------------------------------|
| Mar 1948 | 1,143     | 60,650  | 35,770 male<br>24,880 female |
| Dec 1948 | 1,266     | 63,873  | ----                         |
| Mar 1949 | 1,284     | 65,271  | 39,563 male<br>25,708 female |

The above table indicates that at the end of March 1949, there was an increase of 141 factories or 12.34 percent since the end of March 1948. The increase in number of workers during the same period was 4,621 or 7.62 percent. From the end of 1948 to the end of March 1949, there was an increase of 1.5 percent in number of factories and 2.19 percent in number of workers.

Since 1948, most progress was made in the textile industry. From the end of March 1948 to the end of March 1949, the industry has been expanded by the establishment of 20 additional factories and the hiring of 4,700 textile workers.

The main types of industries, number of factories, and number of workers in Hong Kong today are as follows:

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| <u>No of Factories</u> | <u>Type of Industry</u> | <u>No of Workers</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 13                     | Spinning                | 2,541                |
| 54                     | Textiles                | 6,003                |
| 32                     | Bleaching, dyeing       | 509                  |
| 200                    | Knitting                | 6,277                |
| 35                     | Undergarments           | 1,331                |
| 96                     | Printing                | 3,226*               |
| 47                     | Rubber shoes            | 4,277                |
| 4                      | Match                   | 1,176                |
| 18                     | Cast iron works         | 566                  |
| 2                      | Smelting works          | 426                  |
| 2                      | Antimony refining       | 17                   |
| 2                      | Manganese refining      | 54                   |
| 109                    | Metal works             | 4,045                |
| 5                      | Enamelware              | 1,460                |
| 73                     | Machinery repairs       | 1,159                |
| 19                     | Dry docks               | 8,871                |
| --                     | Electric street car     | 1,624                |
| 2                      | Bus companies           | 486                  |
| 2                      | Aircraft repairs        | 223**                |

\* Includes 686 working in newspaper offices.

\*\* Plan to increase number of workers to 1,000.

KUANG-CHOW BUSINESS DEPRESSED -- Hua Shang Pao, 19 May 49

Reports from Kuang-chow (Canton) indicate that business conditions in that city are rapidly deteriorating. Fifty percent of the city's factories have ceased production. Many mercantile organizations have gone out of business. Enterprises endeavoring to carry on have practically all reduced their production.

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